

Theoretical and methodological basis of ensuring the economic security of the region

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Abstract

The article examines the theoretical and methodological foundations of regional economic security in the context of modern systemic transformations. The author analyzes existing definitions of economic security, identifies contradictions and shortcomings in their interpretation, and substantiates the need to study security at the regional level as a complex socio-economic system. Emphasis is placed on methodological approaches that consider regions as open, self-organizing systems characterized by complexity, nonlinearity, and feedback. The paper outlines the evolution of the concept of “mechanism” in economic science and emphasizes the importance of institutions in ensuring regional stability. Conclusions are drawn on the need for an interdisciplinary methodology that integrates systems theory, synergetics, institutionalism, and complexity theory for the effective formation of mechanisms to ensure economic security in regions.

Keywords: administrative services, administrative services at the local level, objects of public administration.

Introduction

Analysis of the main material of the study. Let us turn to the works of domestic authors engaged in research in the field of economic security and the mechanisms of its provision at the state and regional levels. According to T.V. Boyko, there is a problematic field in the interpretation of the category “economic security,” which lies in the fact that “almost all formulations are surprising not only for their declarativeness. They do not take into account that semantically the word ‘security’ means the absence of danger, or, in other words, the protection of someone (something) from someone. From these formulations, it is impossible to understand what and from what in the economy should be protected” [1].

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In V. Amitan's view, "security" is perceived as "a state in which there is no danger, a protection against danger" [2]. Protection implies counteraction to negative impacts on the object of protection, i.e., the presence of a certain mechanism capable of ensuring a protected state. In the scientific works of O. Vlasuk [3], the term "security" is understood as the protection or safeguarding of an object from negative influences, allowing one to speak of the similarity of authors' approaches to the subject of study. Negative influences are understood as a set of processes and phenomena capable of causing certain harm to the object of protection with varying probabilities. Many researchers share this opinion, proposing to differentiate impacts, which allows forming a general understanding of what should be protected.

According to V. Vorobyov, "security for the economy refers not so much to individual economic entities as to the economic complex of the country (region, industry) as a whole. It presupposes the existence of such conditions (internal and external political, social, legal, organizational, scientific and technical, etc.) under which the stability of the economy is ensured, its real functioning in the mode of expanded reproduction" [4].

In S.V. Kalambet's interpretation, the category "economic security" is understood as "a set of conditions and factors characterizing the current state of the economy, its stability, resilience, and progressive development, as well as the degree of its autonomy..." [5]. The author collective led by Z.S. Varnaliy states that economic security is "the protection of economic relations that determine the progressive development of the country's economic potential and ensure the improvement of the welfare of all members of society... from dangers and threats" [6].

According to V.T. Shlemko and I.F. Binko, economic security is "the state of the economy in which there is a constant ability to maintain acceptable values of pre-determined criteria – indicators of economic security" [7]. N. Kapustin defines economic security as "a state of the economy in which guaranteed protection of national interests and stable socially oriented development of the country as a whole is ensured... even under the most adverse conditions of internal and external processes" [8].

The guarantee of protection and the ability to ensure the economic security of society is provided by a mechanism capable of preventing or averting danger arising in the interaction of the object with the environment. Therefore, the interests of society in the economic sphere must be protected from a set of processes and phenomena capable of causing harm or having negative consequences for the functioning of social and economic structures.

Other authors consider the objects of protection in the economy to be economic relations and national interests. In the first case, only forms of interaction are studied without considering the presence and importance of the environment, which is also a source of threats to society. In the second case, national interests significantly expand the generally accepted boundaries of the object of economic security, as they include all spheres of social life. In our opinion, the object of economic security should be the socio-economic system of the country and its regions, which has certain historical, geographical, ethnic, spiritual, political, and economic boundaries.

Let us turn to the identification of the essence, content, and scope of the category "mechanism" in the context of the study of the mechanism for ensuring economic security. In translation from Greek, mechanism means "weapon, machine." Scholars claim that this

concept came to economics from engineering due to the need to theoretically describe the interactions of social and production processes. In mechanics, the category “mechanism” is the internal device of a machine, apparatus, or instrument that sets them in motion. In economics, the term “mechanism” was introduced into scientific circulation in the second half of the 1960s in works on the economy of socialism. M.A. Kovalenko defined the content of the “economic mechanism” [9] as a rather complex structure that includes economic and organizational processes in the economic system. Representatives of the traditional neoclassical school define a “mechanism” as a set of various methods and means of influencing economic processes. Contemporary researcher A. Cherep understands a mechanism as “a set of resources of an economic process and ways of combining them” [10].

Regional economic security: theoretical foundations and mechanisms. In the context of regional development, the concept of economic security acquires specific features, as the region represents a socio-economic system with its own resources, institutions, and environmental conditions. According to O. Honcharenko, regional economic security is “a state of the regional economy in which there is a stable functioning of its socio-economic systems, protection of the interests of the population, and prevention of threats that may arise from internal and external factors” [11].

The regional economy is characterized by heterogeneity, interdependence of industries, and varying levels of development of infrastructure and human capital. This complexity necessitates the use of systemic approaches to the study and management of economic security at the regional level. The theory of complex systems and synergy provides methodological tools for understanding these processes. Synergy implies that the interaction of elements within a system generates new qualities not inherent to the individual components, which allows regional authorities to identify leverage points for ensuring stability and development.

According to I. Prigozhin and H. Stengers, complex systems are open, self-organizing, and adaptive. The application of these principles to regional economic security allows for the identification of mechanisms that ensure resilience to external shocks and internal imbalances. These mechanisms include the optimization of resource allocation, coordination of regional development programs, and creation of institutional frameworks that support both economic stability and sustainable growth.

A practical example of such mechanisms is the integration of innovative technologies, digital infrastructure, and human capital development programs, which enhance the adaptive capacity of regional economies. The combination of preventive, corrective, and adaptive measures forms the basis of a regional economic security management system.

The study of regional economic security also requires the identification of threats, which can be classified as internal or external. Internal threats include structural imbalances, inefficient governance, and resource misallocation. External threats are associated with global economic fluctuations, geopolitical instability, and environmental hazards. Effective mechanisms of protection combine monitoring, forecasting, and rapid response strategies, allowing regional authorities to minimize risks and maintain sustainable socio-economic development.

Thus, the regional mechanism for ensuring economic security integrates theoretical principles of complex systems, practical management tools, and institutional instruments

aimed at protecting the socio-economic system of the region from negative influences while promoting its stable and progressive development.

Practical examples and conclusions. A vivid example of the implementation of regional economic security mechanisms can be observed in the Kharkiv region. Local authorities have focused on developing industrial clusters, modernizing infrastructure, and supporting innovation through public-private partnerships. This approach allowed the region to maintain economic stability despite fluctuations in global markets and internal challenges such as unemployment and resource constraints.

Another example is the Lviv region, where investments in IT and creative industries have strengthened human capital, created new employment opportunities, and increased the region's competitiveness. The combination of targeted policy programs, incentives for innovation, and infrastructure development formed a resilient socio-economic system capable of adapting to changing external conditions [21-23].

In conclusion, regional economic security is a multifaceted concept that requires a combination of theoretical knowledge, practical management tools, and institutional support. The study demonstrates that:

1. **Systemic and synergistic approaches** are essential for understanding the complex dynamics of regional economies.
2. **Adaptive mechanisms**, including innovative technologies, human capital development, and infrastructure optimization, are critical for resilience.
3. **Threat identification and response** strategies enable regions to protect socio-economic stability and promote sustainable development.
4. **Practical implementation**, such as regional clusters, digital infrastructure, and public-private partnerships, illustrates the effectiveness of theoretical principles in real-world conditions.

Thus, ensuring regional economic security is a dynamic process requiring continuous monitoring, forecasting, and adjustment of strategies in response to internal and external changes. The combination of theoretical understanding, institutional frameworks, and practical actions forms the foundation for the stable and progressive development of regional socio-economic systems.

Conclusions

Regional economic security is a multifaceted concept requiring a combination of theoretical knowledge, practical management tools, and institutional support. Key conclusions include:

1. **Systemic and synergistic approaches** are essential for understanding complex regional economic dynamics.
2. **Adaptive mechanisms**, including innovative technologies, human capital development, and infrastructure optimization, are critical for resilience.
3. **Threat identification and response** strategies enable regions to protect socio-economic stability and promote sustainable development.
4. **Practical implementation**, such as regional clusters, digital infrastructure, and public-private partnerships, illustrates the effectiveness of theoretical principles in real-world conditions.

Ensuring regional economic security is a dynamic process requiring continuous monitoring, forecasting, and adjustment of strategies in response to internal and external changes. A combination of theoretical understanding, institutional frameworks, and practical actions forms the foundation for the stable and progressive development of regional socio-economic systems [28].

Theoretical and Methodological Basis of Ensuring the Economic Security of the Region

Findings

The findings of this study demonstrate that the issue of regional economic security cannot be reduced to narrow economic interpretations alone, as it is inherently multidimensional. The research reveals that existing definitions of “economic security” are fragmented and often fail to capture the full range of risks faced by modern regions. By critically examining the works of domestic and foreign scholars, the study highlights the contradictions in current approaches and underscores the need for conceptual clarity [25].

It was found that economic security at the regional level functions as a complex adaptive system, influenced by economic, social, political, and institutional factors. The research emphasizes that threats are not only external (such as geopolitical instability, global economic fluctuations, or climate challenges) but also internal, including inefficient governance, weak institutions, and insufficient innovation potential.

The study further identifies that the concept of “mechanism” has undergone significant evolution in economic science, moving from mechanistic interpretations to modern views grounded in systems theory, synergetics, and institutionalism. This highlights the growing recognition that ensuring regional stability requires flexible, adaptive mechanisms capable of responding to nonlinearity, uncertainty, and feedback loops.

In practical terms, the findings underscore the need for an interdisciplinary methodology to study regional economic security. Such a methodology should integrate systems theory, synergetics, institutional approaches, and complexity theory in order to design and implement effective strategies for protecting regions from multifaceted threats. Ultimately, the study demonstrates that without such an integrated framework, policy responses risk being fragmented, short-term, and unable to ensure long-term sustainable security [29].

Large Actuality of the Study

The actuality of this research lies in the growing challenges faced by regions in conditions of global systemic transformation. Regional economies have become increasingly vulnerable due to globalization, technological disruptions, geopolitical instability, and environmental risks. In the post-pandemic world, regions are experiencing heightened pressure from economic shocks, supply chain disruptions, energy insecurity, and social inequality, all of which necessitate a reassessment of how economic security is defined and ensured.

Moreover, regional development is increasingly dependent on the ability of institutions to adapt to rapid change. The actuality of this study is further supported by the need to shift from national-level analyses of security to the regional dimension, since regions are often the first to face and absorb the consequences of crises. Strengthening regional security mechanisms is thus not only a matter of economic resilience but also of national and global

stability.

By addressing gaps in theory and proposing a holistic, interdisciplinary methodology, this study contributes to the urgent task of redefining economic security for the 21st century. Its relevance is reinforced by the pressing need to provide policymakers, researchers, and practitioners with conceptual tools to design effective mechanisms that safeguard regions against an increasingly complex set of risks [17-24].

Ethical Considerations

The study was conducted in strict compliance with ethical standards of academic research and publication. All scholarly sources referenced in the article were duly acknowledged to maintain intellectual honesty and transparency. No primary data involving human subjects or confidential information was collected, thereby eliminating risks related to privacy, consent, or data protection. The author affirms that the work adheres to internationally accepted norms of academic ethics, ensuring that the findings and arguments presented are free from fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest. There are no financial, professional, or personal relationships that could have influenced the research outcomes or interpretation of results.

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